

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 1, 9 and 13 have been amended. Claims 2, 10 and 14 have been cancelled.

Therefore, claims 1, 2-9, 11-13, 15 and 16 are presented for examination.

Claims 1-6 and 8-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Katz (U.S. Patent No. 6,310,398). Applicants submit that the present claims are patentable over Katz.

Katz discloses a pattern for an improved interface with routable coupling to substantially all of the signal lines on one "surface" of an IC device being typically planar, and typically having a convex outer perimeter (or a convex inner perimeter defining its center). Terminals are partitioned into mutually exclusive groups distributed about the center of a pattern. In the common usage of carrier manufacturing (including, but not limited to, that of PCB's, sockets, multi-chip modules, or plastic IC packages), the "center" of a pattern may be either a region with few signal terminals or a center point. For typical designs, the center of the pattern is near the center axis of the device. A terminal group may be "contiguous," i.e. contained within a single polygon of fewer than 10-20 sides that excludes terminals of other groups. Each of the groups comprises a plurality of terminals clustered along a "reference segment." Several constraints limit the shape and position of the segments. They are generally curvilinear--i.e., arcuate, linear, zigzag, wavy, or having similar shape characteristics and zero width. They can optionally coincide with a segment of directly outward ray--i.e., one that extends directly outward from the center axis or region to the pattern perimeter. As the segments extend outward, they do not double back. That is, each has a rotational position about the center that is a function of the offset distance from

the center--i.e., each extends "generally outward." The segments extend continuously from the center of the terminal pattern to the (outer) perimeter of the pattern. They do not cross or overlap the center or one another. Each segment desirably projects within about 30-60 degrees of a ray directly outward from the nearest part of the center. Reference segments intersect the outer perimeter of the pattern in an annular series of points progressing around the perimeter. Reference segments each extend continuously from the center and do not overlap, and are thus distributed in a successive sequence about the center. A "successive pair" of reference segments is any reference segment with either a clockwise or counterclockwise neighboring segment. See Katz at col. 2, ll. 57 – col. 3, ll. 59.

Claim 1 of the present application recites an IC package having a plurality of input/output (I/O) lands including a vertical pitch having a first uniform distance and a horizontal pitch having a second uniform distance. Applicants submit that Katz does not disclose lands having a vertical pitch of a first uniform distance and a horizontal pitch of a second uniform distance. Katz includes lands where the vertical pitch has a different distance than the horizontal pitch. However, neither the vertical pitch nor the horizontal pitch is uniform. Both the vertical and horizontal lands have a non-linear configuration. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Katz.

Claims 3-8 depend from claim 1 and include additional features. Thus, claims 3-8 are also patentable over Katz.

Claim 9 recites an IC package having a plurality of input/output (I/O) pins including a vertical pitch having a first uniform distance and a horizontal pitch having a second uniform distance. Therefore, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 9 is also

patentable over Katz. Since claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 9 and include additional features, claims 11 and 12 also patentable over Katz.

Claim 13 recites a plurality of input/output pins (I/O) connectors including a vertical pitch having a first uniform distance and a horizontal pitch having a second uniform distance.

- For the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 13 is also patentable over Katz. Because claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 13 and include additional features, claims 15 and 16 also patentable over Katz.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Katz in view of Kajinuma (U.S. Patent No. 6,722,910). Applicants submit that the present claims are patentable over Katz even in view of Kajinuma.

Kajinuma discloses an electrical connector with a locking member which is disposed on a base housing so that the locking member can move between an open position and a locking position in a direction that is perpendicular to the direction of movement of the slide member. See Kajinuma at Abstract. However, Kajinuma does not disclose or suggest I/O lands, pins or connectors having a vertical pitch of a first uniform distance and a horizontal pitch of a second uniform distance.

As discussed above, Katz fails to disclose or suggest I/O lands, pins or connectors having a vertical pitch of a first uniform distance and a horizontal pitch of a second uniform distance. Thus, any combination of Katz and Kajinuma would also fail to disclose or suggest I/O lands, pins or connectors having a vertical pitch of a first uniform distance and a horizontal pitch of a second uniform distance. As a result, the present claims are patentable over Katz in view of Kajinuma.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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